326. [*Transferred to the 1st March*, 1988].

New system for enrolment in Army

327. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced a new system of enrolment in the Army; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) There is no change in the Recruitment System for enrolment into the Army. Earlier in the high response areas, the candidates used to be shortlisted based on educational qualification, height bar and one mile run. This has been replaced by introduction of Application System of Recruitment. This system was introduced with effect from 1st October, 1987 in the States of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. It would be introduced in all Zones (except Gorkha Recruiting Depot., Kunraghat, Kunraghat, responsible for enrolment of Gorkhas) for Matric Entry Rate (MER) and Normal Entry Rate (NER)-Matric categories with effect from 1st April, 1988. In this system, applications are invited from prospective candidates after wide publicity. Specific date is laid down for receipt of applications. After the due date, applications are acknowledged and then they are scrutinised at the Headquarters of Recruiting Zones and are shortlisted based on education, age, height, NCC/ITI certificates, sports, etc. Candidates thus selected are issued call up letters for Screening, Medical and Physical Tests; written examinations and final selection at a given date and venue.

Plan to revamp CSIR

328. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a plan to revamp CSIR in three months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). Government has not formulated any plan to revamp CSIR in three months. However, following the Report of the Abid Hussain Committee and the recommendations of the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM), some measures are being taken to streamline the working of the CSIR.

Haj Programme for 1988

329. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Haj Programme 1988 by Sea has still not been announced. If so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Haj Committee India has passed a unanimous resolution to the effect that Haj sailings should be announced soon to avoid confusion;

(c) whether Government are aware of the reaction and apprehension in the Muslims of the country by not announcing the programme of Haj by sea and whether Government have decided to discontinue the same; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to subsidize Air Charter fare in lieu of sea fare, and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Haj programme for 1988 has already been announced for 18,314 out of 23,000 Haj pilgrims to whom foreign exchange will be provided this year. Government have already chalked out a programme for the remaining pilgrims with a view to ensuring that inconvenience is not caused to Haj applicants.